

Upcoming Events

May	Sat 4 - Sun 5	Marlborough Open	Blenheim
	Sat 18	Southland Open	Invercargill
	Sat 25 - Sun 26	Wgton/HV Autumn Open	Wellington
	Sat 25 - Sun 26	Counties Manukau Open	Manurewa
June	Sun 26	North Harbour Junior Open	North Harbour
	Sun 26	Canterbury Junior Open	Christchurch
	Sat 8 - Sun 9	Wgton/HV Age Gr and Junior Dev	Petone
	Thurs 13	Entries Close: North Island Open	
	Sat 15	Manawatu Hard Bat Tournament	Palmerston North
	Sun 16	Auckland Junior Open	Auckland
	Sat 22 - Sun 23	Nelson Open	Nelson
	Sat 22	Northern Districts Junior Round Robin	Whangarei
July	Sun 23	Northland Open	Whangarei
	Sun 30	Wairarapa Open	Carterton
	Mon 1 - Sun 7	Oceania Championships	Fiji
	Sat 6	South Canterbury Open	Timaru
	Thu 11 - Sun 14	North Island Open	Auckland
	Sat 20	Hawkes Bay Open	Napier
	Sat 20	Otago Open	Dunedin
	Thu 25	Entries Close: South Island Open	
	Sat 27 - Sun 28	North Harbour Open	North Harbour
	26 July - 3 Aug	Commonwealth Games	Manchester
August	Sat 3 - Sun 4	Manawatu Open	Palmerston North
	Sat 10 - Sun 11	Auckland Open	Auckland
	Sat 17 - Sun 18	Wgton/HV Open	Wellington
	Fri 23 - Sun 25	South Island Open	Nelson
	Thur 29	Entries Close: NZ Open	
Sept	Sat 31 - Sun Sep 1	Waikato Open	Hamilton
	Sun 1	Wgton/HV Junior Dev Open	Petone
	Fri 13 - Sun 15	Canterbury Open	Christchurch
	Sat 14 - Sun 15	Wgton/HV Spring Open	Petone
	Fri 27 - Sun 28	NZ School Teams Championships	Invercargill
	Sun 29 - Sat Oct 5	New Zealand Open	Invercargill



TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 20

April 2002

- ◆ Koreans Visit
- ◆ A Survey for You
- ◆ New Cadet Championships
- ◆ Board Selection Method Changed
- ◆ Long Term International Plans Made
- ◆ Overseas Coach Visits and Impresses
- ◆ Veterans & Summer Nationals Results
- ◆ 14 Year Old Studies Effect of 40mm Ball
- ◆ Commonwealth Games Team Announced

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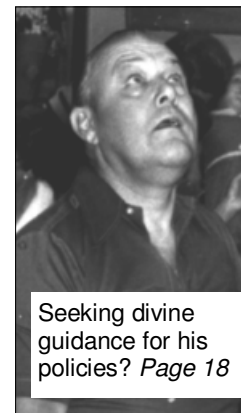
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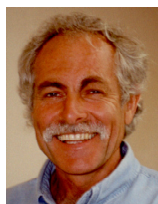
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New Zealand Inc.



It wasn't all play – some of the Commonwealth Games Squad training at the Northland TT Stadium.
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More Tours Needed



My Serve

from James Morris

While browsing through Ken Wilkinson's history of NZ table tennis, "50 Years Across the Table", I was struck by the number of overseas table tennis teams that have visited NZ over the years. The ones I remember well from my playing days were Japan, Czechoslovakia, Hong Kong, Australia and China. The Chinese tour in 1972 was memorable as it had a high profile. China was seeking friends around the world through sport and this did much to boost table tennis in NZ. At the test matches the media were clamoring to interview the players and seemed obsessed with the friendship growing across the table tennis tables. The venues were packed and often queues wended down the roads. The teams were officially welcomed at Government House. This was great media exposure for table tennis.

A Chinese tour today would be very popular and I think it should be explored as we have had few elite teams visit NZ lately. TTNZ and Mike Brown came close to bringing a national Chinese team to NZ in 1997. But for tours to happen today sponsorship is the key. I am sure if an elite team containing world champions could be attracted to NZ, matches would be a sell-out. During the 1972 Chinese tour I heard that TTNZ underestimated the support and undersold the tour. Such was the interest that sports shops in Auckland sold out of table tennis bats. Media spin-off from a tour today would inject similar interest and bring young players into the game. Having top players visit NZ would give our elite players an opportunity to test their skills, our young players new levels to aspire to, and our older players a chance to see the world's best. Associations could take the lead here as I do not feel only TTNZ can do this. The history book tells me we're due for a top national team's visit. But they don't just happen.

Cheers,

James



Commonwealth Games team.

Table Tennis New Zealand and the New Zealand Olympic Committee have announced that the table tennis team to the Manchester Commonwealth Games will be:

Men: **Peter Jackson, Aaron Li, Shane Laugesen, Andrew Hubbard.**
Women: **Li Chunli, Karen Li, Tracey McLauchlan, Laura-Lee Smith.**

Board Member **Ron Garrett** is the Table Tennis Team Manager.

The National body is seeking:

A National Junior Coach and an Assistant Coach

The appointees will work under the direction of the TTNZ board and in collaboration with the Junior Development Officer and Coaching Director.

The Duties and Responsibilities include:

- Helping develop, co-ordinate and update junior player development.
- Organising training and development camps etc.
- Being committed to travel overseas and take responsibility for junior teams
- Liaison with selectors and coaches and communication with players.

More details available from the National Office. If you are interested apply with CV indicating experience and qualifications to TTNZ by **10 May 2002**. Appointments will be notified by 31May 2002.

Welcome

If this is the first time you have received this magazine, we welcome you as a registered member.

By being registered, you qualify to participate, if you wish, in any Open Championships in New Zealand. But whatever level you play at, simply by being registered you have joined a very large group of table tennis enthusiasts throughout New Zealand who enjoy each other's company and who share ideas and opinions with each other through this magazine.

The magazine is sent to all currently registered members and we hope you enjoy it. Feel free to contact us and submit questions, letters or interesting table tennis news at any time. Our mailing address is PO Box 867, Wellington. Email address ttnz@tabletennis.org.nz.

We also invite you to explore our website at <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz> which has lots of information on table tennis to help you.

Your registration number and association are printed on the address label on the envelope in which this magazine reached you. If you've mislaid the envelope, your number is also available from your Association or our website. The number must be quoted on your entry form for all national tournaments and most other major events.

Don't forget to advise us and your association of any change of address.

Enjoy your table tennis and once again, welcome !!!

Kevin Thomas Administration Officer.

OVERSEAS COACH BENEFITS NEW ZEALAND PLAYERS

- “If your weight is on the front of your feet, you will naturally lean forward into the stroke, giving it more power.”
- “Power in a stroke comes from pushing the floor with the leg, upper body rotation, and arm action – all in a single fluid movement.”
- “The body, including the feet, always has to follow the ball so that it is struck at the correct position in front of the body. This requires anticipation and judgement of the opponent’s stroke, and ‘snap’ position changes during fast rallies.”

This is a small sample of the down to earth, practical advice given to players by Swedish coach **Jan Berner** during a series of training camps held throughout New Zealand last January. Over a three week period Jan conducted camps in Invercargill, Nelson, North Harbour and Northland, working with players ranging from promising young juniors to members of the Commonwealth Games squad. Various New Zealand coaches observed and assisted.

Jan Berner’s coaching credentials include Swedish Level 3 certification and a period coaching the Norwegian women’s team. He has recently been appointed National Coach for Finland. As a player, he attained a high national ranking in Sweden.

Arrangements for the visit had to be made hastily as Jan’s services were offered in late November and there were last minute changes to his scheduled arrival date. National Coaching Director **James Morris**, Junior Development Officer **David Cook**, and Administration Officer **Kevin Thomas** all swung into action and with the support of local Association officials had a plan for the full tour in place when the visit commenced on January 6.

All costs apart from accommodation were met by the Oceania Table Tennis Federation. The original plan was for Jan to visit both New Zealand and Australia in the available three week period but when it was realised that both countries wanted him on the same dates, Australia backed out leaving New Zealand the luxury of having him for the full three weeks. Jan happily accepted billet accommodation so costs were minimal and it would have been his preference anyway - experiencing New Zealand life from the inside rather than looking at it through a motel window.



Training Camp – North Harbour Jan 2002

Back Row L/R: **Tam Rennie, Rhys Van Stipriaan, Geoffrey Smart, Simon Wallace, Shane Warbrooke, Peter Craven, Greg Burton, Blake Paget, Jan Berner** (coach)

Front Row: **Tom Liu** (trainer), **Sarah Ho, Brodi Smith, Matthew Lowe, Nathan Lowe** (between rows), **Billy Lam, Yi Ching Yuen.**

He was impressed with the facilities that he visited but saw a need for more trained and qualified coaches to work regularly in the various table tennis centres. He also thought that unless our players get the opportunity to train, practise and compete offshore they will find it very hard to be competitive at international level.

In assessing the players he worked with, he made the following general observations on their work during training routines and exercises:

- The players’ strokes were good when the ball came to the same place, but when it was changed slightly they did not follow the ball and either stretched or played a cramped stroke. They need to concentrate on judging the ball as it approaches or as the opponent plays the shot.
- Players should use more spin during exercises, especially on the forehand, to translate it better into a game situation.
- If an exercise strays away from the set routine, players should play the rally out to win the point.
- When playing an exercise with fixed positions, players should change speed and spin as much as possible to simulate a game situation.
- Female players with a good serve and who are first to spin the ball have a distinct advantage.

Training was conducted in sessions of two and a half hours, two sessions per day and with a lengthy break between. With the exercises requiring full concentration, as well as being physically demanding in the summer conditions, the players’ fitness and mental stamina were well tested. Lisa Boaden, a trainee at a camp restricted to females only, felt that the two days spent training with Jan was a great opportunity. “There was a lot of hard work

though, with lots of footwork exercises! It was interesting to have a camp with only girls for a change and useful to get some advice from a different coach. All in all it was a worthwhile experience.”



Training Camp – North Harbour Jan 2002

L/R: **Helen Codlin** (trainer) **Katie Stretton, Sarah Ho, Michelle McCarthy, Jennifer Lo, Sophie Shu, Lisa Boaden, Hanna Squire, Jan Berner** (coach)

Helen Codlin, who has experience coaching NZ junior teams overseas, observed Jan’s methods closely at two of the camps. “He ran very successful camps with players with varying skills,” she said.

Overseas Coach... continued

"He ensured all players were able to succeed in the exercises and sought to accommodate players with different styles - for example there was a defensive player in the group. Jan's analysis of the source of any problem often came back to basic technique whatever the level of the player. He had a good rapport with all players but kept them to the task. Overall he was a very relaxed, low key, but very effective coach."

It was Jan Berner's first visit to New Zealand. "He enjoyed his trip so much he wants to come back," said James Morris after seeing him off after the final camp in Whangarei. "My thanks to all host associations and people who showed Jan good old Kiwi hospitality".

David Cook did an excellent job in overseeing the visit and TTNZ thanks the Oceania Federation for creating the opportunity. A huge vote of thanks is also owed to all those local people who provided billets and helped with transport at the various locations Jan visited.

Like any coach who also has a history as a top player, Jan Berner's philosophy is match focussed. He believes training has one purpose only - to prepare the trainee for match play. Developing and perfecting a stroke is only the start. Knowing when to produce it in a match situation is the real test.

John Kiley



Umpires Meet

At a recent meeting of the Umpires Committee the following recommendations were made, subject to Board approval:-

- To have a Register of Umpires - Local, National and International. There would be an annual registration fee of \$25 per year. This will help to cover the costs of rule books, handbooks, monograms, etc. Invoices would be sent out with an attached newsletter listing expectations of Umpires.
- That from 2003 the Referee and Deputy Referee for the four main tournaments (North Island, South Island, NZ Veterans and NZ Championships) will be selected from a list drawn up by the Umpires Committee. Both Referee and Deputy will be requested not to play in the part of the tournament they are officiating in (ie, a veteran Referee could officiate in the junior section of a tournament and play in the veterans section so long as they were separate.) Host Associations are to be liable for normal travel expenses for the officials.
- That some Local Umpires will be invited to sit the National paper.

Below: **The Umpires meet.**

L/R (rear): **Terry Down, Alan Ward, Dennis Galvin, Bill Burns, Ric Hiyden, Jim Jarmin, Brent Stretton**
(front): **John Stapleton, Robert Dunn, Bruce Penberthy, Phil Males (Australia), Averil Roberts, Michael McAvinue, Val Scarr.**

GAMES SQUAD PREPARES

While the Table Tennis team for the Manchester Commonwealth Games had not yet been selected, a squad of elite players has been undergoing an intensive training programme to ensure the players eventually selected are able to peak for the Games.

Thanks to a funding grant from the New Zealand Olympic Committee, an eight-day live in training camp was held in the Northland Table Tennis Centre in late January. Ten players attended, including a number of overseas-based NZ players brought home specially for the event. Li Chunli could not attend because of playing commitments in Japan and Sarah Finch withdrew because of injury.

Those who organised the camp wish to thank Northland Table Tennis for the use of their facilities.

Swedish coach Jan Berner led the camp with NZ coaches James Morris and Simeon Cairns. Ron Garrett, Commonwealth Games team manager, also attended along with the national selectors who were there to assess players' fitness and play. As with the training camp before the World and Commonwealth Championships in 2001, physical fitness testing was an important aspect. Simeon Cairns' link with Auckland University of Technology and the Sports Academy enabled comprehensive "table tennis specific" testing to be carried out, which highlighted areas the players needed to concentrate on. In addition, all players played round robin matches.

Table Tennis has become a carded sport and it is great to have the Commonwealth Games squad accepted by the Sports Academy as carded athletes. This means they have free access to services such as physiotherapy, sports psychology, sports vision testing, medical facilities, and career development advice. Squad members took advantage of these services during the camp.

Dave Currie, Chef de Mission for the Commonwealth Games, visited the camp and gave an informative talk on the facilities in Manchester.



Commonwealth Games Squad – at the Training Camp In Northland Table Tennis Stadium.

L/R: **Shane Laugesen, Simeon Cairns (coach), Aaron Li, Simon Wallace, Peter Jackson, Karen Li, Peter Craven, Andrew Hubbard, Adrian Soh, Tracey McLauchan, James Morris (coach), Andy Huang, Jan Berner (Swedish coach), Ron Garrett (manager).**

Games Squad continued.

The players enjoyed having an elite overseas coach at the camp and Simeon and James appreciated the opportunity to co-coach with Jan Berner. Jan enjoyed the camp and said that this professional approach to national training is a monthly event in Sweden. Lack of funding prevents TTNZ from doing it more often here but it reaffirms that TTNZ is on the right track in preparing players for international events.

From information supplied by James Morris

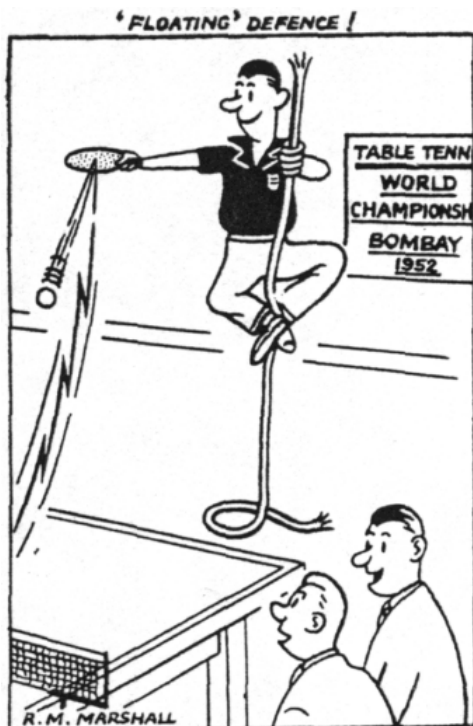
Berner Visit Highlights Need to Up-skill Coaches

Elite Swedish Coach **Jan Berner's** recent visit to New Zealand was part of the International Table Tennis Federation and Oceania Table Tennis Federation development programme. During the visit he admired the table tennis facilities we enjoy in NZ but commented that there seems to be a lack of qualified coaches working in these centres. Rectifying this he felt was a priority for TTNZ's future development.

TTNZ had planned a Level 2 Coach Education course in 2002 but due to NZ Olympic Committee "solidarity" funding being declined this will not now be possible. It would have been a follow up to the Level 1 courses of 2001.

Planning for the Level 2 solidarity course involved working with ITTF and NZOC and it is hoped to pursue it again in 2003. If approved by NZOC, the course will be advertised through Associations and this magazine. Level 1 practising coaches will be invited to up-skill. An elite overseas coach will facilitate the Level 2 course and it is hoped that, before participating, interested coaches will have passed the Coaching New Zealand generic Level 2 course through their local Sports Trust.

Associations wishing to up-skill their coaches to Level 1 or introduce them to TTNZ Coach Education pathways should contact **James Morris**, email james.r.morris@xtra.co.nz



"It's certainly effective for getting back "kills"!"

Address Changes

Don't forget to advise us if you change your address. Keep in touch via registration and receive the magazine.

STIGA NEW ZEALAND

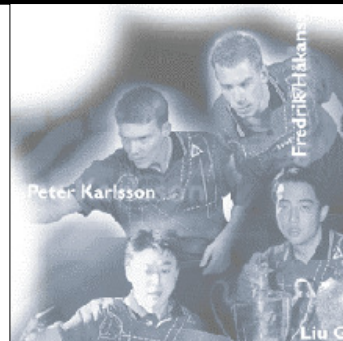
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Koreans Hit Christchurch

by Ron Fleming

In February a large very responsive audience of table tennis enthusiasts were privileged to watch a magnificent display of table tennis by two Korean players in the Table Tennis Canterbury Stadium.

Yoo Nam Kyu (pictured), now on a comeback trail, won Olympic Gold in 1988 in the Men's Singles. He was World Junior Champion three times and won a host of other titles until retirement in 1999. He showed that he has lost little if any of his speed and athleticism in playing a demonstration game with **Jong Up Han**, coach of current world number four and European Champion Ryu Ji Hie.

Both pen-grip players treated the excited audience to a wonderful display of power play. The speed of the ball especially from Yoo Nam Kyu was truly amazing. He played a best of five against local star **Simon Wallace** who relished the opportunity to learn from the master.

Jong Up Han, on his second visit to Christchurch within two

Koreans continued

months, wishes to settle here and along with Yoo Nam Kyu is keen to assist with junior development in Canterbury.

Both players are very keen golfers and have completed several rounds at the new Clearwater Resort.



L/R: Yoo, Nam Kyu, Ron Fleming, Dot Fleming and Jong Up Han in the

edge of the bat in topspin/topspin rallies but we eventually got used to the conditions.

My first match was against K. Kreanga (Greece). I ended up losing 4-1, winning the 2nd game 12-10. My second opponent was Ma Lin and here I lost 4-0 although I did manage 11-9 in the first game. My third match was against J-O Waldner which I lost 4-0 although I led 10-6 in the 4th game before losing 12-10.

I was keen to get in as much practice as possible with the top players and I was fortunate enough to practise with Waldner, Saive, Kreanga, and Samsonov several times. This was invaluable experience for me. I definitely felt I was playing better at the end of the tournament than I had been at the beginning.

Samsonov won the tournament in very impressive style. I think it was the best I have ever seen him play. He won his quarter final against Kreanga 4-0, his semi-final against Chiang Peng-Lung 4-0 and the final against world number one Wang Liqin 4-0. If anyone gets a chance to see the semi-final and final matches of Samsonov they are really worth seeing. None of his opponents had any real chance to compete with him.

The New 40mm Ball

I think everyone is used to the new ball now as it doesn't seem to make a huge difference to the play although it may be a little more physically demanding. This is because it is marginally harder to finish a point with the 40mm ball.

Games to 11

As for the games to 11 the top players don't seem to like it as it means that they have to take all players very seriously from the first point. It means there is a lot more pressure on the whole time. Games are often much closer and this is more interesting for the public although because of the increased pressure there may be more errors and less spectacular shots.

Men's World Cup

Playing Against the Best

As the player with the highest world ranking in Oceania, New Zealander Peter Jackson (now based in France) qualified to participate in the 2001 Men's World Cup – an elite event attended by most of the top ten players in the world, with the total field limited to only 16.

He writes about the experience:

The event this year was in Courmayeur in Italy. This is very close to the French border and very close to Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in France. We were playing at an altitude of 1200 metres and this had a strange effect on play. At the beginning of the tournament everyone was hitting the top

Team Play at North Harbour

The Northern Region Associations held an "oldies" teams tournament on Waitangi Day and more than 60 players were treated like royalty by the hosts, North Harbour. There were teams from Northland, North Harbour, Waitemata and Waikato and the emphasis was on getting the social midweek day players to mix with regular competition players. For this year the tournament retained the 21-up format as many of the social players may have had problems with the 11-up doubles.

The tournament will be hosted by Northland next year.

The social players had an exciting finish with two North Harbour teams playing off for the title. The over-65 final was 2-all and decided on the last singles.

Representatives had a meeting to decide on the future timing and format for the event and Northland's offer to host next year's tournament was accepted. The general opinions were listened to and taken on board. North Harbour are becoming very professional in putting on these contests whereas some Associations do not appear to have the same enthusiasm.

Winning teams were:

Over 40: **John Te Pania, Diane Te Pania, Trish Meyer** (North Harbour)
Over 50: **Elton Kao, J Liao, William Chao** (North Harbour)
Over 60: **Nellie Milich, Doug Teasdale, Cynthia Luke** (Northland)
Over 65: **Margaret McGregor, Dennis Galvin, Shirley Beveridge** (Waitemata)
Over 70: **A Hislop, Laurie Calder, J Irving** (Northland)
Social players: **Bob Mitchell, Jean Mitchell, Virginia Water** (North Harbour)

With thanks to Dennis Galvin and "Vetspeak"



Table Tennis is a sport for people of all ages.

Introducing a New Event

World Cadet Championships

There's exciting news for junior players with the announcement of the **Under 15 World Cadet Championships**. The tournament will be held in Hungary in June this year, in conjunction with the World Youth Festival, a multi-sport event promoting international goodwill and the general benefit of sport.

Oceania will be sending two teams - 4 girls and 4 boys (plus officials), to represent our region.

TTNZ nominated some players and the following were successful selections by Oceania:

Boys' team: **Binbin Zhu** (Auckland)

Girls' team: **Jiani Hu** (Nelson)

Seen on the Internet somewhere: "PING PONG, table tennis played by skunks".



Two New Board Members Appointed

Bob Inns and **John Stapleton** were appointed to the Table Tennis New Zealand Board at the end of 2001 and will serve until the 2003 AGM, after which they will be eligible for re-election.

We profile both for your information....

Bob Inns

Bob Inns brings to the Board a wide range of table tennis administrative experience at club and association level extending over a period of more than forty years. He has also attended many TTNZ Annual General Meetings where he has enthusiastically participated in debates on all topics, especially those involving finance. Bob was also among those who advocated the changes recently made to our method of appointing Board members. (refer page 19)



Bob started playing table tennis as a foundation member of the Dallington Club, Christchurch, in 1956 and served on the committee for several years, mainly as Treasurer. In the late 1960's he played for Kaikorai Valley club in Dunedin and moved to Auckland in 1969. There he formed the Eastern Club at St Heliers with Bob Tate and Bernie Griffiths (father of Barry Griffiths, eight times New Zealand champion).

From there he quickly moved into administration at association level and was elected to the Auckland Management Committee in 1971, serving in a number of capacities. He has been Treasurer since 1986 and is now also Auckland TTA President.

TTNZ welcomes Bob Inns to the Board.



John Stapleton

John Stapleton's table tennis background includes activities as a player, administrator, coach and umpire. He began by joining a school team in 1978 and was encouraged to join the North Harbour Association (then known as North Shore) in 1983 by an enthusiastic and energetic young President named Bryan Keane, now the driving force at the TT Academy in Nelson. John has been active in North Harbour ever since. His whole family plays.

John is a professional table tennis administrator - he was employed by TTNZ as National Development Officer in 1998/99 and now works full time as North Harbour's Operations and Development Officer. He has also served on the Management Committee of the Oceania TT Federation and is a qualified International Umpire.

As a Board member John has a vision he has named "Pathways to the Future". This involves setting specific goals in a wide range of table tennis activities and selecting people with a particular interest in each goal to form a working group to achieve that goal. It's an exciting vision and will cover all areas: playing, coaching, umpiring and administration.

TTNZ welcomes John Stapleton to the Board.

Reflections on Retirement

by Ron Fleming



When I took early retirement from Lincoln University I said to myself, "Well, here I am retired. No more hassle looking after a staff of 50 or so; no more stupid reports to produce. Boy, life is great."

But hang on a minute! This is a great chance to get stuck into a training programme and get my body back into some resemblance of its former glory. Hey! I might even set a veteran running record or two. It must be easy to do when you get past 60. Oh no! I have just remembered that Southland farmer Derek Turnbull at 65 years of age broke every World Record from 800m to the marathon. Perhaps I should try some other sport.

I know. The Cust Motorcycle Grand Prix re-enactment is on. I'll go and suss it out. Boy, the atmosphere is great here in the pits. All the past greats are here in their leathers and raring to go. I think I will buy a motorbike - this must be easier than running. Look how overweight and old some are. "Hi Mick Holland, how old are you?" "You should know Ron; you were my pit mechanic at the 1947 Hamilton Grand Prix!!" Anyway they're off and disappear down the front straight at 160 km per hour. Perhaps I should try something else. As we leave my wife says "I hope you're not thinking of buying a bike." "Never entered my head," I reply.

Perhaps I should try a sport I used to do better at so I'm off to table tennis. "Hello Joe Brown, I haven't seen you since I played you years ago. Do you want a game?" How the hell did he get that smash past me? Well, at 87 he has had a lot more experience than me. "Gee all this veteran activity is tough," I commented at a table tennis mid-week session. "I might take up swimming." A 62 year old lady said "You should. I swim 100 lengths at QEII pool twice a week." Oh no!!

I am not giving up. My new mountain bike and boogie board are highly tuned and ready to go. Any takers?

Perhaps I should stay with table tennis administration and leave the rest to dreams. Life may be easier.



More of:

You Might Be Addicted To Table Tennis If.....

- The phrase "heavy no-spin pendulum serve" actually means something to you.
- You can't use your 10' by 14' study for much due to the 9' by 5' obstacle in the centre.
- A successful vacation involves at least one trophy
- You have ever had to explain that yes, it is a sport, and a very demanding one at that, and yes, it is in the Olympics

WATCHING THE TOP CHINESE TRAINING

Auckland Coach Hagen Bower wrote an open letter about his good fortune during a recent trip to China:

Hi All

I am in Beijing at the moment and was lucky enough (I mean really lucky) to get into the Chinese National Team training hall. It is the largest full time table tennis training facility in the world with around 55 tables. Normally foreigners have absolutely no chance of getting in and before I left I asked a few people if they could get me in and they just laughed. Anyway, I went with former TTNZ National Coach Zhu Hui and with a combination of the one in a million chance of one of his old classmates being there that day and the women's team coach recognising me, we were in.

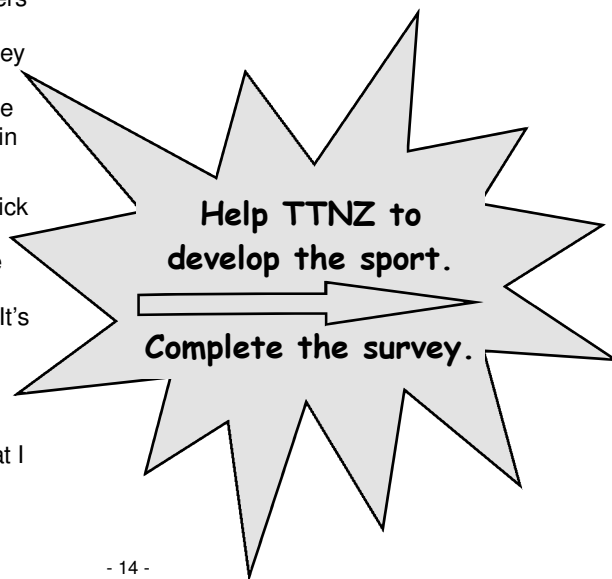
It was quite amazing! On the first table was Ma Lin, then Kong Linghui, then Wang Liqin, and on the last table of the group of four was Liu Guozheng. Each player had a training partner. They were training 5 hours per day of which half is set by the coaches and the other half is free for the individual to decide. The quality of training was just incredible. There were 20 male players and probably about 30 women including Wang Nan who was quite impressive to see practise. They were doing service exercises with about 5 or 6 balls per table and each group of 3 or 4 players had a coach watching them. There was not a lot of talking while they were practising - absolutely none amongst the women but a little chat amongst the men. After I watched for a couple of hours we went out to lunch with one of the coaches in charge of Kong Linghui and Ma Lin. It was a great opportunity to ask questions and learn bits and pieces.

The next day I went to the Beijing Team training. The facilities were nothing like at the national team training. The conditions were probably worse than the old Empire Hall but I didn't see anybody complaining about how slippery the floor was or how bad the ball bounced. They were old tables, crape floor, no space between the tables. I am amazed at just how much glue these players use. It is illegal of course, old tyre glue that we used to use like Tip Top but it doesn't matter what sort of rubber they use, Japanese or Chinese, they glue the hell out of it. Some players will stop and glue two or three times during a two hour training session. They hit the ball extremely hard as well, relentless in fact. The head coach here is a player called Zhang Lei who was in the national team in the early 90's.

Anyway, it is amazing what you can pick up and learn just in a few days. Beijing has changed since I last came here in 1995 and the last time I was here before that was 1991 and 1989. It's very clean now with heaps to do but pretty cold - today would be around minus 5 degrees.

Just thought I would let you know what I have been up to.

Hagen



Ron Garrett – Life Member

Here's a profile of Ron Garrett, who was elected a Life Member of Table Tennis New Zealand at the last Annual General Meeting.

Ron lives on the outskirts of Invercargill where he and his family run a small sheep farm. Until his recent retirement he also maintained a fulltime job managing School Support Southland.

His contribution to table tennis has been monumental. He began playing 38 years ago and has served on Table Tennis Southland's Executive Committee since 1966 including five years as Secretary and fourteen as President. He was a key official when Southland built its own stadium and was heavily involved when it was

later extended. He is the current Chairman.

He has coached juniors in Southland since 1970 and later organised coaching at regional level - setting up training camps for players and coach education seminars for coaches. His regional activity covered the southern half of the South Island and with this he received valuable assistance from Barry Butler (South Canterbury).

As a player, Ron has represented Southland at most New Zealand Championships while at the same time often acting as Manager/Coach of Southland junior teams. He has played over 250 first class matches for Southland.

Another of Ron's many skills is the presentation of submissions to local bodies and community funding agencies. Table Tennis Southland has received grants totalling many thousands of dollars over the years thanks largely to Ron's thorough research and careful preparatory work.

At National level, Ron has been a regular attendee at TTNZ Annual General Meetings since 1973, either as a Southland delegate or as a TTNZ office holder. He served a total of seven years as TTNZ President, three years as a National Councillor and seven years as a TTNZ Board Member. He is currently the Board's Deputy Chairman. He has also coached at National level and travelled to Australia as Manager/Coach of Under 17 and Under 20 New Zealand teams on four occasions since 1992.

Thirty-six years after taking up his first administrative position, Ron remains as active as ever. Ron is the Team Manager for Table Tennis at this years Commonwealth Games.

His wife Ngaire is also an excellent player, administrator and coach and she and Ron have received Civic Sporting awards in Southland in recognition of their work. His two daughters have played for New Zealand – Debbie in the women's team and Vicki as a junior. ☒☒

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NZ Open Veterans Championships Auckland Easter 2002

	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
<u>Over 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Horst Frohlich (AUS)	Pat Low (A)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Joan Munn (AUS)
Men's Doubles	M Ede & M Wright (AUS)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/HV)	
Mixed Doubles	M Andrews & V Beaver (AUS/NH)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Allen Drury (AUS)	Horst Frohlich (AUS)
Women's Singles	Lynley Barker (C)	Carol Hughes (AUS)
Men's Doubles	K Cole & H Frohlich (AUS)	
Women's Doubles	V Crumbie & J Munn (AUS)	
Mixed Doubles	H Frohlich & J Munn (AUS)	
<u>Over 60 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Werner Borkhardt (AUS)	Chip Eade (WT)
Women's Singles	Carol Hughes (AUS)	Annice Robotom (MN)
Men's Doubles	K Cole & K Sands (AUS)	
Women's Doubles	C Hughes & M McGregor (AUS/WT)	
Mixed Doubles	K Cole & C Hughes (AUS)	
<u>Over 65 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Anthony Herbert (AUS)	Case De Bondt (AUS)
Women's Singles	Margaret McGregor (WT)	Nellie Milich (NL)
Men's Doubles	A Herbert & E Moore (AUS/C)	
Women's Doubles	E Spooner & J Woodward (MN/AUS)	
Mixed Doubles	A Herbert & J Woodward (AUS)	
<u>Over 70 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Eddie Moore (C)	Keith Armstrong (C)
Women's Singles	Elsie Spooner (MN)	Joy Ingpen (AUS)
Men's Doubles	M Allardyce & P Bargh (HV/MN)	
Women's Doubles	E Spooner & J Woodward (MN/AUS)	
Mixed Doubles	R Morris & E Spooner (AUS/MN)	
<u>Over 75 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Jim Coad (A)	Harry Taylor (C)

Is the Tasman Gap Getting Smaller?

Dennis Galvin looks at the NZ Veterans Championships at Auckland

After the results from the Thursday night test (Australia 15, NZ 10), it looked as if the gap between New Zealand and Australia was closing. But by the end of the finals night on Easter Monday the Ozzies had been as all-conquering as in previous years.

Horst Frohlich easily won the O40 men's singles against Auckland Pat Low and North Harbour's Val Beaver won the women's singles, maintaining her remarkable success with ease. Val must be approaching the record deeds of John Lelliott and Mary Broadbent, if she has not already reached them.

One of the gutsiest wins in the tournament was Canterbury's Lynley Barker beating Sydneysider Carol Hughes in five after taking out Beaver in four in the semis and

Australian test player Val Crumbie in five in the quarters – a match which featured an 18-20 third game.

After a while off the scene Bill Otene (Waitemata), who reaches the 70's division next year, was put out in the 65 men's singles semi-finals by Australian eventual winner Tony Herbert.

If there was a talking point, it was the lack of Auckland entries on their home track.

Revisit Draft System for Vets?

Merv Allardyce adds some comments:

If the philosophy is that the teams events are for Association teams it seems strange that a player can represent two Associations at the same championship. I feel the draft system for the Veterans should be revisited - it is a different situation from the NZ Championships. I suggest that the system only operates when a player is not already in an Association team and does not operate when a player is already a member of a team and their second age group requires them to play for another Association. Australian players should be required to play for their State and not enter two age events with partners from different States.

Generally, it was a well run tournament except for a hiccup in the teams draws when some draws originally okay were changed because others were wrong. The canteen was great with some very good, fresh food. The presence of Australian players adds to the championships and it was interesting to note the differing styles of many of the players - all good stuff.

Veterans Merit Lists – Calculated from the Championships results

Men	Women	Over 65	
Over 40		1 Tony Herbert	Barbara Jackson
1 Horst Frohlich	Val Beaver	2 Case De Bondt	Marg. McGregor
2 Pat Low	Joan Munn	3 Geoff Nesbitt	Annice Robotom
3 Peter de Boer	Lesley Gardner	4 Paul Winder	Nellie Milich
4 Chris Talbot	Averil Roberts	5 Rhys Morris	Elsie Spooner
5 Bob Lassen	Chris Cunningham	6 Bill Otene	Joyce Woodward
6 Kevin Fogarty	Anne McLean	Over 70	
Over 50		1 Eddie Moore	
1 Horst Frohlich	Lynley Barker	2 Rhys Morris	
2 Mick Wright	Val Beaver	3 Keith Armstrong	
3 Allen Drury	Carol Hughes	4 Paul Bargh	
4 Mike Andrews	Joan Munn	5 Hugh McIlwrath	
5 William Weinstock	Val Crumbie	6 Dave Sherman	
6 Pat Low	Chris Cunningham		
Over 60			
1 Ken Cole	Carol Hughes		
2 Werner Borkhardt	Annice Robotom		
3 Chip Eade	Merle Trenwith		
4 Tony Herbert	Nellie Milich		
5 Case De Bondt	Joyce Woodward		
6 Nam Hang Lee	Elsie Spooner		



AARON LI MAY HAVE BEATEN KONG LINGHUI A COUPLE OF TIMES BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP HIM FROM PLAYING WITH THE KONG LINGHUI OFFENSIVE BUTTERFLY BLADE!

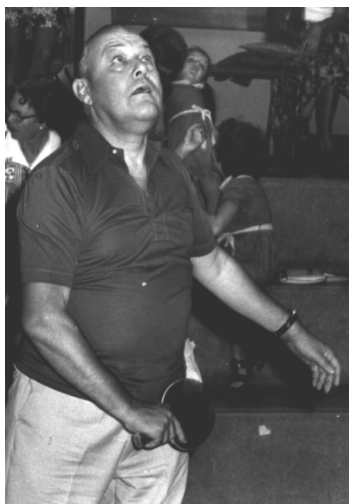


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Front Cover – Divine Guidance?

Not at all – simply **Rob Muldoon** (Prime Minister of NZ at the time) participating in a **Ping Pongathon** held to raise funds for the Auckland Table Tennis Stadium in 1979.



SUMMER NATIONALS

Manawatu Stage Yet Another Great Tournament

The weather was great, the atmosphere excellent and the hospitality superb for another great Summer Nationals held in Palmerston North in mid January.

Many of New Zealand's top players along with a host of talented up and comers and of course the many usual regulars, all had the time of their lives. Some amazing results occurred under the new 11 point format.

A couple of great choppers confronting some of the country's best attackers made for some incredible matches. At times Nelson's **Johnny Liang** and Bay of Plenty's **Sun Yang** were seen in unimaginable positions getting the ball back on the table - always a highlight of any tournament. Nelson's **Ian Alino** played the match of his life to be only the second person in NZ to lower the colours of Liang. He seemed to be able to pick off a winner from almost anywhere during the first day of the teams events. Another star was Nelson's **Chris Erskine** who managed to beat his arch rival **Binbin Zhu** on the three occasions they met. Erskine took the under 17 and under 14 Boys Singles titles.

It all went off without a hitch and all the players and the many spectators were full of praise for the organising committee for staging such a wonderful friendly tournament.

Table Tennis NZ liaison officer **Bryan Keane** said "If all the tournaments were played in such a great atmosphere as this, table tennis would soon become one of the most popular sports in the country."

Results over >>>>

Doubts about 11 point Game

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

I don't know if I agree with the new rules at all. Yes, it may make the game look a little more interesting, but by simplifying the game it gives it a bad image. Now A grade players will look like B grade and the players don't need to be as fit as they should be. Part of the meaning of the sport is the game itself as well as fitness. I think ITTF focus too much on the looks.

Also after all the hard work done on our serve and fitness, now we realise it is not required. Now the sport doesn't need much skill and fitness. I can't see where the entertaining is going to come from. One thing I like about this sport is the amount of skill involved in it. Now I am seeing half the needs of the sport being cut off. Plus the new rules are not good for slow starters like me. By the time I am ready and fully warmed up, I may be too late to catch up or the game is even finished. I don't often get into the match until the second game. Now one game is equal to two.

I know you probably won't be able to do much about the new game. I have spoken to many players and I think you may find a number of players who will drop the sport because of the new rules.

Regards **Tony Law** (Onslow Club Member, Wellington)

More Democratic

Change to the Way the TTNZ Board is Formed

At the Annual General Meeting last November, delegates passed changes to the Constitution which results in some Board members now being elected at the AGM. Previously all were appointed by an Appointments Committee which included people from outside Table Tennis.

Briefly, the new system requires the seven member Board to consist of five members elected at the AGM for a period of two years after which they must retire (they can then be re-elected or re-appointed), and two members appointed by the Board who also must stand down after two years, remaining eligible for re-appointment or re-election.

The four members appointed to the Board under the previous system at the end of 2001 will serve for two years. The remaining three (appointed in 2000) are required to stand down at the 2002 AGM and two replacement members will then be elected and one appointed. In 2003 three members will be elected and one appointed. Thereafter the same two-yearly cycle will be repeated, allowing each member to serve for two years.

It had been felt for some time that, with the lack of attraction of Board members from outside Table Tennis, Associations needed to have their say as to the composition of the Board. The election of five members allows for this while the appointment of the other two still allows some specialist input.

Summer Nationals Results Palmerston North Jan 2002

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Johnny Liang (N)	Adrian Soh (N)
Women's Singles	Sun Yang (BP)	Sophie Shu (MN)
Men's Doubles	J Liang & A Soh (N)	
Women's Doubles	B Astwood & Sun Yang (MN/BP)	
Mixed Doubles	T Armstrong & Sun Yang (BP)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Ian Alino (N)	Yu-Chih Chang (MN)
Women's Singles	Sophie Shu (MN)	Annice Robottom (MN)
Men's Doubles	I Alino & J Wells (N)	
Women's Doubles	A Robottom & V Scarr (MN)	
Mixed Doubles	Y Chang & S Shu (MN)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Eddie Millard (MN)	Jim Jarmin (MN)
Women's Singles	Val Scarr (MN)	Annice Robottom (MN)
Men's Doubles	P Bargh & J Jarmin (MN)	
Women's Doubles	B Astwood & A Robottom (MN)	
Mixed Doubles	E Millard & A Robottom (MN)	
<u>Over 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Chris Talbot (HV)	Jim Jarmin (MN)
Women's Singles	Annice Robottom (MN)	Val Scarr (MN)
Men's Doubles	E Millard & P Solt (MN/HB)	
Women's Doubles	A Robottom & V Scarr (MN)	
Mixed Doubles	E Millard & A Robottom (MN)	
<u>Over 20 & Under 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Ben Collins (A)	Yu-Chih Chang (MN)
Men's Doubles	Y Chang & C McCauley (MN)	
<u>Under 20 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Johnny Liang (N)	Adrian Soh (N)
Women's Singles	Sun Yang (BP)	Tomoe Takahashi (HB)
Men's Doubles	I Alino & J Liang (N)	
Women's Doubles	Sun Yang & T Takahashi (BP/HB)	
Mixed Doubles	J Liang & Sun Yang (N/BP)	
<u>Under 17 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Chris Erskine (N)	Binbin Zhu (A)
Girls' Singles	Sophie Shu (MN)	Michelle McCarthy (HV)
Boys' Doubles	C Erskine & J Wells (N)	
Girls' Doubles	M McCarthy & H Squire (HV)	
Mixed Doubles	B Zhu & S Shu (A/MN)	
<u>Under 14 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Chris Erskine (N)	Binbin Zhu (A)
Girls' Singles	Sophie Shu (MN)	Hanna Squire (HV)
Boys' Doubles	C Erskine & B Zhu (N/A)	
Girls' Doubles	S Shu & H Squire (MN/HV)	
Mixed Doubles	B Zhu & S Shu (A/MN)	

TABLE TENNIS STUDY WINS AT SCIENCE FAIR

A young Marlborough table tennis player with a passion for statistical research has won an array of science prizes for her in-depth study into the effect of the new 40 mm ball.

Kali Stratford (14) spent four months conducting her research. She studied speed, spin, control, and spectator visibility. A paper detailing her method and summarising her findings was entered in the Marlborough Girls College Science and Technology Fair where it scooped first prize. That was only the beginning - it went on to win at regional level, qualifying for the national event in Hamilton last December where it won the NZ Association of Science Educators award - travel to the value of \$1,000 to visit scientific or technologically significant events or locations within New Zealand. Kali's regional win netted her a \$1000 tertiary scholarship, other prizes to the value of \$250, a gold science award and a highly commended award for her statistical data. Her success attracted media attention, resulting in great publicity for table tennis.

Kali's research featured practical experiments and a series of questions put to a range of players:

"For the speed and control tests I chose 8 players from each of these groups: beginners, local juniors, local seniors, top NZ juniors and top NZ seniors. My speed test involved a pair of players standing close to the table hitting forehand to forehand for 30 seconds. I did the same for the 38 mm and 40 mm ball and got a rate per minute using a stopwatch.

"My control test involved 2 players playing a game up to 10 points with 5 serves each. I did a rally count and repeated with both size balls.

"My spin test involved the server using Mark V rubber serving to Mark V. I made my servers serve into a small square marked on their side and then into a small marked square on the receiver's side. I held a bat still with the Mark V rubber and repeated with anti-spin. I repeated this with both size balls. I measured the angle the balls went and the length the ball travelled after contact with the receiver's bat. I had chalked where they landed each time.



"My spectator test involved spectators standing 15 metres behind the tables and two games played with different size balls. The spectators had to detect which ball was the easiest to see - they didn't know which was which size.

"I then conducted a questionnaire asking 50 players, excluding beginners:

- ◆ Which ball do you prefer, the 38 mm or the 40 mm?
- ◆ Do you think the rallies are longer with the 40 mm ball?
- ◆ Do you find the 40 mm ball easier to see while umpiring?"

Continued over page

40mm ball study continued.

Kali's paper included a full and precise set of findings, averaged out over all groups of players, and in summary it concluded that the 40 mm ball showed:

- 13% reduction in both speed and spin
- 20% reduction in length travelled after spin serves were delivered.
- 16% increase in rally length
- 90% of spectators find it easier to see from 15m.



The questionnaire results showed the majority of players prefer the larger ball, feel that rallies are longer with it, and find it easier to see while umpiring.

The thoroughness of Kali's work and the competition success it brought at regional and national level attracted considerable media attention. The Marlborough Express and Greymouth Evening Star both ran stories and there was radio and television coverage as well. Kali has entered Science Fairs annually for several years and has frequently collected cash prizes. She began playing table tennis three years ago and is the daughter of Debbie Stratford, nee Looms – a regular winner of South Island singles and doubles titles between 1978 and 1981, and winner of several New Zealand and North Island titles.

by John Kiley

No Chance of a Fight-back ??

Table Tennis Illustrated Editor *Ian Marshall* defends the new 11 point rule....

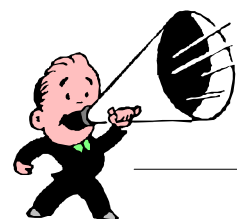
"There is no chance of a fight-back" was one of the most quoted observations heard from established table tennis players when news reached them that their beloved game would no longer be played to twenty-one points but to eleven points.

I would suggest that quite the reverse is true. No longer can a player afford any lapse in concentration when only one point away from success. Having worked hard to establish a lead, the same level of concentration must now be maintained. Two weak services followed by two weak service returns and what appeared to be a comfortable situation is suddenly converted into crisis.

Crisis now comes quicker and more often. The players who succeed must, more than ever before, have the mental qualities to react positively to pressure situations. They are able to raise their game, play at a higher level and dent the confidence of their opponents. Their play draws gasps of disbelief from the assembled spectators. They are the players the crowd comes to watch. Adoring fans take them to their hearts whatever the nationality and they will them to perform the impossible. They are vital to sport.

It would appear that such players go into their own world when defeat looms. They are totally focussed on the task in hand and are oblivious to the rest of the world. If you ask them what they were thinking about in a crisis situation they cannot answer - they simply revel in the challenge of competing when the contest is on a razor edge.

Few in sport have such qualities.



Reporting briefly.....

Board member resigns

Andrew Gordon has resigned from the Board of TTNZ due to business commitments. Andrew will be missed at Board level. A replacement will not be appointed, rather the vacancy will be filled by the associations at the next AGM.

Associations Merge

As we go to print, the Wellington and Hutt Valley Associations are well on their way to merging into a single Association, having conducted the necessary meetings to wind up their respective individual Associations in March. The newly merged Association will be known as **Table Tennis Wellington Inc.**

A combined committee has operated over the past year and by the end of April the merger is expected to be complete.

Asia Pacific Masters Games.

The Queensland Gold Coast is the venue for the 3rd Asia Pacific Masters Games to be held 21st to 29th September 2002. Table Tennis for the 30+ is one of the 41 sports which will be in action. For more information, visit the web site www.mastersgames.com.au.

World Masters Games.

Melbourne is hosting the 2002 World Masters Games between October 5th and 13th. Averil Roberts has details for anyone who is keen to learn more about this sporting event where 29 sports will be on offer, including Table Tennis for the over 35s. Alternatively the web site for information is info@2002worldmaster.org.

Application for More Table Tennis Events at the Olympics Fails

The International Table Tennis Federation applied to add Mixed Doubles events to the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. As the International Olympic Committee has set a limit of 10,500 athletes and wants to maintain the current level of approximately 300 events, the application was declined.

The objective now of the ITTF is to replace the existing doubles events with team events and it will be applying to the IOC for this in the hope that team events will be a reality at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

National Office.

Following concern regarding backup in the National office and the increased workload by increasing development and tours, the Board agreed to employ someone on a part time basis. **Averil Roberts** commenced duties on 15 April.



Wanganui Open

Due to alterations being done at the Jubilee Stadium, Wanganui Association have had to cancel their Open for this year.

North Island Open

Following the withdrawal of Taupo these championships will now be hosted by the Auckland Association 11 to 14 July.

OneList Chat Group.

The Board agreed that this was not fulfilling the vision that was expected of it, therefore it was not serving any useful purpose to TTNZ. The Group has been closed.

Criteria for Representing NZ

The Board clarified that to represent NZ, players must have lived in NZ for at least 3 years and be a NZ citizen.

We get messages from everywhere

Here's an extract from an email received recently:

Hello. First let me tell you that your web site is awesome!!! I am a student at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania USA and I am going to school to become a health and physical education teacher. I am currently developing a unit regarding table tennis. While stumbling through the net to look for pictures I found your site. The information you have is great. I was wondering if you had a more detailed and hard copy version of the Kiwi Coaching Manual. If you do I would like to contact someone about getting one. I believe it would be a great asset for both myself and my colleagues.

Thank You,

Alex Slazek

He would have surfed the net pretty thoroughly in the course of his research, so ***New Zealand leads the world - again !!***

From Pennsylvania again – Golf

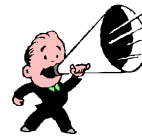
Soon after **Craig Perks'** magnificent Golf win in Florida, the National Office received an email from a USA TT enthusiast, asking if the USA newscasts were correct in saying that Craig was a NZ TT Champion. We had to correct that impression with the correspondent but did make it clear that Craig was a good TT player some years ago in the Manawatu.

Craig certainly made the right choice of the sport to concentrate on – sadly for TT!

Manawatu Hard Bat Tournament

Manawatu Association have changed the date of their annual novel event.

Their Hard Bat tournament is now on Saturday June 15 starting at 9am. Grades to suit everyone and bats supplied. Prizes Galore! Entry forms available early May.



Bowls and Barry Wynks

Great news from Barry Wynks (Manawatu). He has been selected to represent NZ at the Commonwealth Games in the Bowls triples team for disabled players. Many members will know Barry as a really good table tennis player (refer to articles in previous issues), and it is great to learn more of his talents.

Good news for the NZ TT team – Barry expects to be able to support them while he is there.

Coaching and Training Logbook.

This book is intended for players and coaches to assist in the development of players and monitor their progress.

It is now available on the TTNZ web site (Under Coaching index).

Selectors Spot

As a newly appointed national selection panel who took office on the 1st January this year, we feel it is timely to communicate with players, coaches, officials and interested parties on our broad selection philosophy.

As most would be aware, table tennis is participating in the Commonwealth Games for the first time this year in Manchester. This is an exceptional opportunity for table tennis to showcase the sport to the New Zealand sporting public. Getting good results at the Commonwealth Games would be a huge boost. The selection processes and issues surrounding the composition of the Commonwealth Games Team have taken the largest amount of our time early in our term. We are also well aware of the need to put in place a selection philosophy for the development of our future senior representatives and have worked on this area as well.

Table tennis will also be part of the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006, and the selection panel is focused on the identification and development of players we believe will be internationally competitive senior players at this event. We are looking for existing and emerging talent committed to working towards this goal. The plan being developed by the Board, selectors and coaches will be detailed in future issues of this magazine. However it is important that players who have the 2006 Games as one of their career goals are aware that we are striving for a team that will produce good results at that event. This means we are looking for players who have good results in junior and, more importantly, senior events within New Zealand - players who can compete at Oceania level and, ultimately, on the international stage. It is important that players realise that natural ability alone is not enough to be competitive internationally - only when natural ability is combined with intelligent application of a strong work ethic is there a chance of success. Players need to demonstrate these attributes to the selectors and will be given the opportunity to do so. We will also be working with coaches at National, Regional and Association level as we search for the players who meet our criteria.

So for those players targeting the 2006 Commonwealth Games, the challenge has been laid down. It's up to you to do the work and get the results. We will be looking!

Averil Roberts, James Morris, Murray Finch.
National Selection Panel



Long Term Plans Made

International Programme Set for the Next Five Seasons

A meeting on the 2nd of February was held to determine which international events TTNZ intended supporting up to and including 2006. Board Member John Stapleton has supplied the following report on the meeting:

Present – Alan Hounsell, Ron Garrett, John Stapleton, James Morris, Averil Roberts, Murray Finch, Simeon Cairns, Ric Hyden, Phil Males.

It was noted that in any calendar year opportunities exist for each of the following groups – elite seniors, elite juniors (under 18), elite cadets (under 15), veterans (over 40). It was further decided that one area NZ should focus on was developing talent underneath the current elite top players. In particular, the 2006 Commonwealth Games was seen as a high priority and we need to look now towards developing those players who are likely to represent NZ at this event in Melbourne. In the list below this group is referred to as the NZ Development Squad.

The list agreed to was:

2002

1. Commonwealth Games, Manchester, August
2. Oceania Championships (Open, U20, U17, U14), Fiji, June
3. World Cadet Championships (U15), Hungary, June
4. World Masters Games, Melbourne, October
5. NZ v Australia Veterans Test Match, Auckland, March
6. World Cup: Women, September; Men, November
7. NZ v Australia Cadet Test Match (possible)

2003

1. Oceania Championships
2. NZ Development Squad Tour (Asian Senior Championships or similar event)
3. Olympic Qualifying Tournament
4. World Individual Championships, Paris, May
5. World Junior Championships, December
6. World Cadet Championships
7. Australian Junior Championships (if NZ is allowed to compete), *or* Asian Junior Championships (if NZ is allowed to compete), *or* NZ v Australia Cadet Test Match
8. NZ v Australia Veterans Test Match
9. World Cup for Men and Women

2004

1. World Teams Championships, Qatar, April
2. Commonwealth Championships, March
3. Olympic Games, Athens
4. NZ Development Squad Tour (itinerary to be investigated)
5. World Junior Championships, December
6. World Cadet Championships
7. Australian Junior Championships *or* Asian Junior Championships *or* NZ v Australia Cadet Test Match
8. World Veterans Championships
9. NZ v Australia Veterans Test Match
10. World Cup for Men and Women

2005

- 1 Oceania Championships
- 2 NZ Development Squad Tour (Asian Senior Championships or alternative event)
- 3 World Individual Championships
- 4 World Junior Championships
- 5 World Cadet Championships
- 6 Australian Junior Championships *or* Asian Junior Championships *or* NZ v Australia Cadet Test Match
- 7 NZ v Australia Veterans Test Match
- 8 World Cup for Men and Women

2006

- 1 Commonwealth Games, Melbourne
- 2 World Teams Championships
- 3 Other events yet to be discussed

It was noted that it is highly likely that the Oceania Championships will be a compulsory prerequisite for selection in teams for the World Junior and World Cadet Championships. The World Cadet Championships are to involve an Oceania team and the World Junior Championships would be attended by the top country from the Oceania Federation.

Selection criteria was briefly discussed and the selectors intend to issue a new policy for approval by the Board.

It was agreed that the ITTF rule for eligibility to represent ones country be made clear and apply to all players. This rule is that in order to represent NZ a player must have NZ citizenship with a current NZ passport and must have resided in NZ for at least 3 years.



WORLD RANKINGS

NZ Players

(as at 1 April 2002)

Women

Li Chunli	45
Karen Li	121
Tracey McLauchlan	454

Men

Peter Jackson	191
Aaron Li	218
Shane Laugesen	311
Andrew Hubbard	364
Johnny Liang	398
Aaron Winborn	417
Malcolm Darroch	544
Paul Innes	569
Simon Wallace	574



Table Tennis New Zealand

A QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YOU

The purpose of this questionnaire is to try and improve the presentation of table tennis and to make it more attractive to current, former or prospective players to want to be involved in. We need your input in order to be able to accurately assess what changes are needed. Please print clearly.

The results will be published in a following TTNZ magazine and on our web site.

Please tick one or more boxes for each answer or write brief comments where appropriate

1. Why do you play table tennis?

- (a) Prize money..... (d) It's fun.....
 (b) Comradeship/mateship..... (e) Social activity..
 (c) Fitness, achievement, trophies.. (f) Meet people..

2. What do you play in?

- (a) Games with friends.....
 (b) Social games at club.....
 (c) Interclub/League.....
 (d) Weekend Tournaments.....
 (e) Training/Coaching.....
 (f) Inter schools.....

3. Age Group – are you a:

- (a) junior (U19) (b) senior (U40) (c) veteran (40 +)

4. What do you best enjoy?

- (a) Team play (b) Individual events (c) Doubles only

5. If you are currently either an inter-schools player, local club player or a social player, would you consider playing inter club or tournaments in the immediate future?

- (a) Yes (b) No

6. Are you interested in watching top players in action in tournament finals?

- (a) Yes (b) No

Please continue over page

7. What negative factors would influence your decision to not play Interclub and Tournaments?

- (a) Working longer hours..... (d) Entry fees too expensive...
 (b) Tournament players too good..... (e) Strict drink drive laws.....
 (c) Too many other choices of leisure.. (f) Tournaments take all day..

(g) Others:

8. What positive factors would influence your decision to participate in Interclub and Tournaments?

- (a) A group of your friends formed a team.....
 (b) Attractive social activities associated with events.....
 (c) What is needed to make weekend tournaments more attractive?

9. Do you consider:

- (a) organised sport to be cool?.....Yes No
 (b) organised table tennis to be cool?.....Yes No
 (c) that your friends think table tennis is cool?.....Yes No

10. Is there sufficient emphasis on social events in your group, club or region?

- (a) Yes (b) No

11. What social events, connected to table tennis, would you support either locally or if staying out of town ?

- (a) Socials..... (g) Dances.....
 (b) After event drinks..... (h) Trivial pursuit night...
 (c) Barbecue teas/ lunches... (i) Wine trail.....
 (d) Formal prizegiving dinners with guest speaker.....
 (e) Novelty events e.g. Sumo wrestling or fly on the wall games.....
 (f) Group outings e.g. Ten pin bowling, laserstrike, Touch games.....

12. If attending a major tournament what events would you support at the table tennis venue ?

- (a) Hardbat event..... (d) Snooker.....
 (b) Shootout..... (e) Exhibition matches...
 (c) Pool..... (f) Modified fun games...
 (top town concept)

13. Would you support any of the following at any tournament lasting more than one day?

- (a) Organised group walk.....
 (b) Half day at beach (summer).....
 (c) Inter island soccer match.....
 (d) Others.....

14. A significant number of players from different cultures in particular from Asia now play in NZ. What effect does this have on socialising/ mixing ?

- (a) None (b) Some (c) Considerable

15. Are these new cultural groups adequately catered for in table tennis ?

- (a) Yes (b) No
 (c) If you answered no, then what is needed to be done?

Please continue over page

16. Why do, in your experience, people drop out of table tennis?

17. Have you any ideas or suggestions to make table tennis more attractive not otherwise provided for in the above?

18. Communication – What extra information would you like to see in:

(a) TTNZ Web Site?

(b) **TT INFO** Magazine?

Your Name
 (optional)

Email:

Table Tennis New Zealand really appreciates your patience and co-operation in completing this questionnaire. Lift out this centre page and:

Post to: **Table Tennis New Zealand, P O Box 867, Wellington**

OR Fax to: 04 471 2152

OR Email the answers to: ttnz@tabletennis.org.nz

If email be sure to quote the exact Question Number and sub letter before your answers.

The questionnaire is also on the TTNZ website for printing and responding as above.